

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04 PRS-01

IGA-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 ARAE-00 DRC-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5447

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8080

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJ: FEA STUDY IN VENEZUELA

1. FONMIN SCHACHT CALLED ME THIS MORNING TO ASK MY OPINION ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE KRUEGER CASE. I SAID I THOUGHT THE WHOLE THING WAS FOOLISHNESS AND RECALLED TO HIM THAT KRUEGER HIMSELF HAD HANDED HIS UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS TO THE HEADS OF OIL COMPANIES AND THAT I HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF TRYING TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS WITH MINISTERS WHEN BENNETT TESTIMONY AROUSED GREAT EMOTIONAL STRESS HERE, AT LEAST IN THE VENEZUELAN NEWSPAPERS. WITH THIS SCHACHT AGREED.

2. HE THEN ASKED IF I DID NOT THINK IT BEST IF KRUEGER RETURNED TO VENEZUELA TO INTERVIEW VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS. I SAID I HAD MADE THE SAME POINT YESTERDAY IN THE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE (STATE 182009). I WARNED THE MINISTER HOWEVER THAT SHOULD KRUEGER RETURN, HE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR A VERY EXTENSIVE INQUISITION BY THE VENEZUELAN PRESS. HOWEVER, I WOULD INQUIRE OF WASHINGTON IF KRUEGER WERE AVAILABLE TO

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RETURN PROVIDED FEA AND THE DEPARTMENT CONCURRED IN SUCH A

MEASURE.

3. RECOMMENDATION: UNLESS KRUEGER CAN HANDLE HIMSELF VERY WELL
INDEED, I THINK HE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RETURN, AT LEAST FOR
THE TIME BEING. I NOTE FROM STATE 182399 THAT NO QUESTIONS
WERE ASKED ON THE KRUEGER EPISODE IN THE AUGUST 19 AND 20
NOON PRESS BRIEFINGS. IN MY JUDGMENT THE LEAST SAID ABOUT THIS
MATTER THE BETTER. I RECOMMEND ACCORDINGLY THAT I BE INSTRUCTED
TO SAY THAT MR. KRUEGER IS IN HONOLULU OR TIMBUKTU AND IS
CURRENTLY NOT IN A POSITION TO COME TO VENEZUELA ALTHOUGH OF
COURSE HE WOULD LIKE TO RETURN WHEN HIS SCHEDULE
PERMITS.
MCCLINTOCK

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